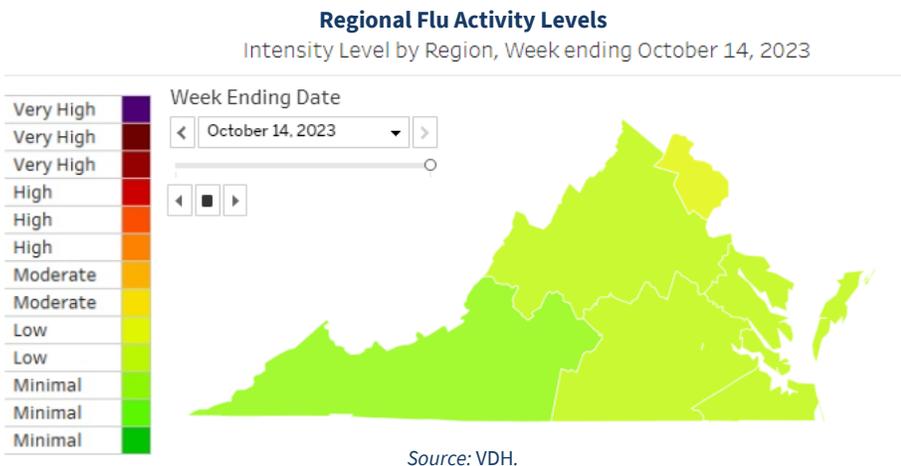
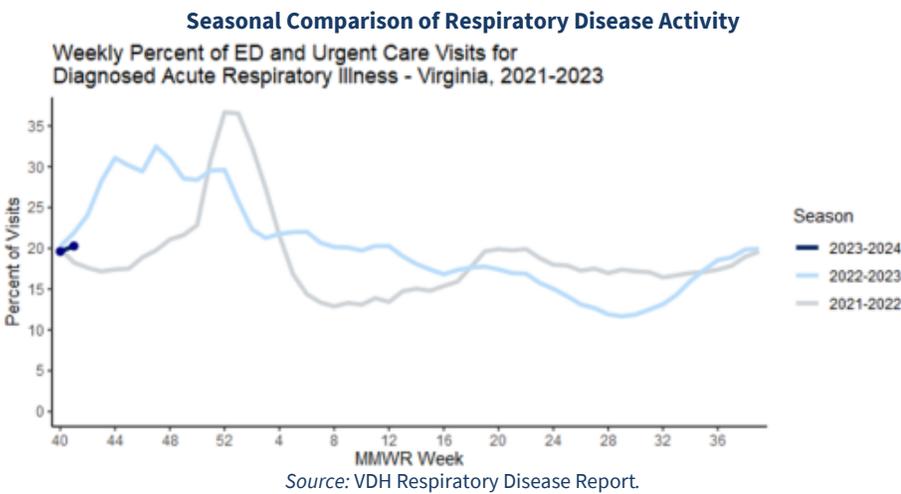


October 20, 2023

Key Takeaways

- COVID-19 surveillance indicates a slow sustained decline. COVID-like illness visits, and emergency department (ED) diagnoses, are now at rates not seen since late August.
- COVID-19 hospital admissions rates have also decreased. Models suggest this trend will continue into November.
- RSV rates continue a slow upward tick in Virginia. ED diagnoses and RSV detections have doubled since September. Overall rates are still low, but RSV has surged in the Southeastern states.
- Federal security agencies noted an increased risk of attacks associated with the conflict in the middle east, emphasizing potential lone wolf attacks on Jewish, Muslim, and Arab communities. Sometimes rowdy protests related to the conflict have occurred nationally.

Key Figures



COVID-19

Low

Characterization of COVID-19 hospital admissions and hospital occupancy in Virginia.

Influenza

Minimal

Statewide influenza activity levels in Virginia, as of Oct. 7.

4 of 5

Virginia regions with Low influenza activity levels, as of October 7.

Overdose

9%

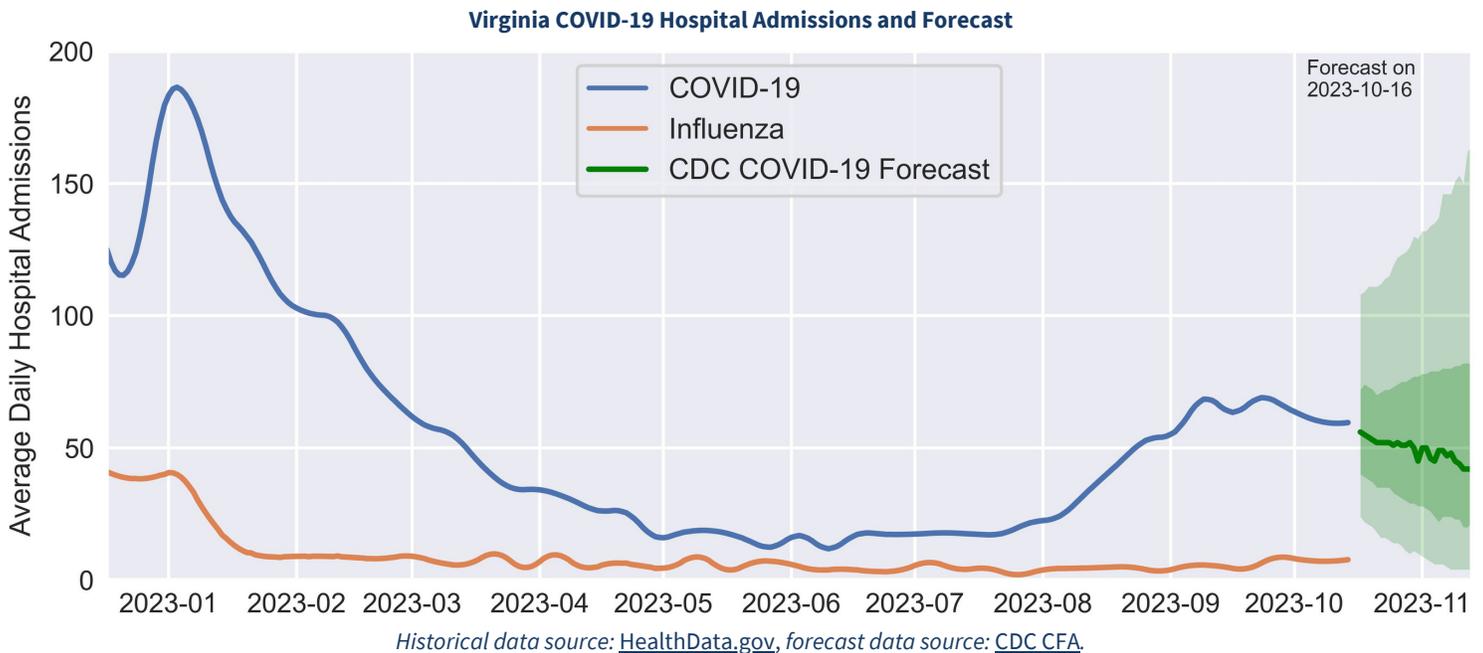
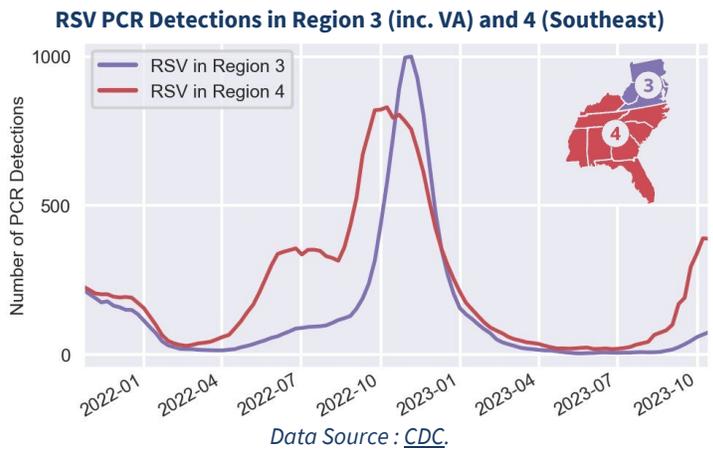
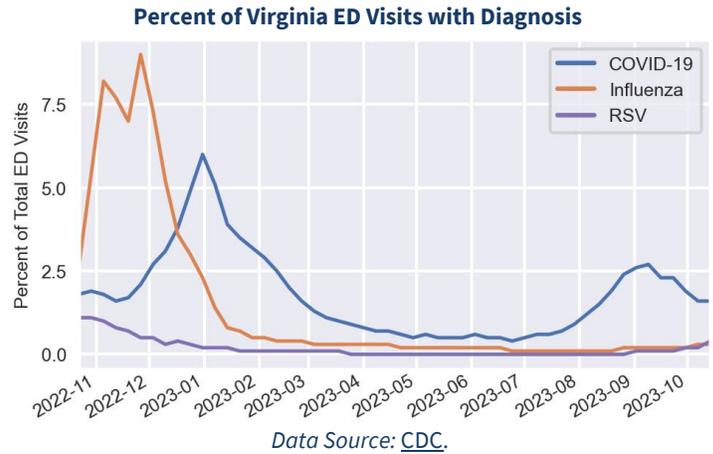
The statewide quarterly decline in Emergency Department visits for all drug overdoses.

Spotlight: **Mideast Conflict**

Forecasts are italicized

Respiratory Illness

- Indicators suggest COVID-19 in sustained decline.** The percentage of emergency department (ED) visits resulting in a COVID-19 diagnosis has fallen for five weeks straight. It is now at 1.4%, similar to rates seen in mid-August. COVID-Like Illness visits are also down to 8.8% from a peak of 9.9% in early September.
- Weekly hospital admissions rates continue to fall.** Following three weeks of decline, admissions are now 4.18 per 100k. This is the lowest rate seen since the last week of August. CDC models suggest a slow but steady decline in admissions through the end of the month. Hospital bed occupancy is also down slightly.
- RSV rates continue to grow slowly in Virginia.** The percentage of ED visits resulting in an RSV diagnosis has doubled since September (top right), but rates remain low. RSV detections also continue to rise in HHS Region 3, which includes Virginia (bottom right).
- RSV growth pauses in Southeastern U.S.** After weeks of growth, RSV detections in HHS Region 4 seem to have slowed this week. Last year RSV surged in Region 4 about a month before it did in Virginia.
- HHS vows to ensure availability of Paxlovid during commercialization.** The drug was distributed freely by HHS, but will enter commercial sales in November.



Spotlight

- An [intelligence bulletin](#) noted “a heightened threat environment” in the US due to the [conflict in Israel and Palestine](#). The bulletin, issued by the Department of Homeland Security, cited lone offenders targeting Jewish, Muslim, and Arab communities and institutions as the main threat currently, but the situation is fluid and evolving. The bulletin did not note any specific threats.
- A six year old boy was killed and his mother wounded in Illinois in an [attack](#) related to the conflict. Acts of [harassment](#) and [vandalism](#), sometimes [including](#) threats of violence, have also been [reported](#) in [several US states](#).
- 300 protestors were arrested in the U.S. Capitol complex, including three charged with assault on a police officer. Police officers from Virginia provided [assistance](#). Other protests have [targeted politicians](#) or required police to [separate groups of protestors](#).

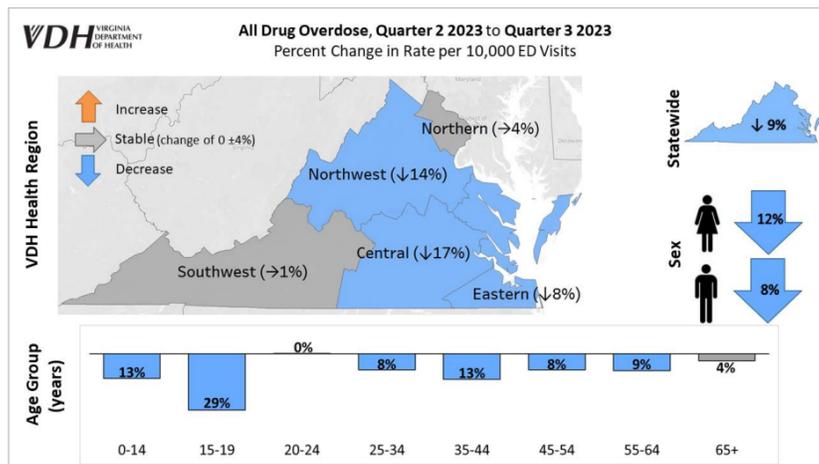
Mideast Conflict



Image Source

- A soccer match in Belgium was [halted](#) after a gunman killed two fans and wounded another. Fans remained in the stadium for two hours as the area was secured.

Other News



Overdose-related emergency department visits decreased or remained stable across all regions in Virginia during Quarter 3, 2023.
 Image Source: VDH

- **High demand for Beyfortus causes severe shortages.** The new monoclonal antibody protects newborns against RSV. However demand has been so high that [Sanofi has paused new orders](#).

- **Avian Flu detected and confirmed in 16 flocks across 9 states in the past 30 days.** States with the largest number of affected birds include Minnesota, South Dakota and Utah.
- **Vehicle crashes impact two Virginia schools.** Twelve students and their bus driver were hospitalized after a crash in rural [Suffolk](#). In Troutville, three individuals were hospitalized after a car struck a [daycare building](#).
- **Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease identified in Pennsylvania schools.** The Allegheny County Health Department reports clusters of cases in various school settings, including preschools and high schools. The virus has also caused [60 cases at Duke University](#) in North Carolina. Authorities note that the virus primarily affects young children, and outbreaks on college campuses are rare.